

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

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CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01
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OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
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O 101344Z APR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8148
LOS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 05341

ADVISE D/LOS ON RECEIPT

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS-PLENARY SESSION APRIL 6, - GENERAL COMMITTEE
APRIL 7

REF: GENEVA 5178

1. IN RESPONSE TO THE VOTE REAFFIRMING HIS POSITION AS
THE LOS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT (SEE REFTTEL), AMERASINGHE
ASSUMED THE CHAIR ON APRIL 6 FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE
OPENING THE SESSION ON MARCH 28. HIS RESUMPTION OF THE
GAVEL PRECIPITATED A WALKOUT BY ARGENTINA, URUGUAY, BRAZIL,
MEXICO, VENEZUELA, ECUADOR AND PERU. NICARAGUA, THE LATIN
AMERICAN GROUP (LAG) SPOKESMAN, REITERATED THE LAG POSITION
AND SAID IT CANNOT BE SATISFIED WITH THE SOLUTION OR ACCEPT
THE "LEGALITY" OF THE DECISION.

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2. SPOKESMEN FOR THE EASTERN EUROPEAN, ARAB, AFRICAN AND
ASIAN GROUPS WELCOMED AMERASINGHE'S RETURN AND PLEDGED
THEIR FULL SUPPORT. THE WEO REP (FRANCE) DID NOT SPEAK
AT THIS SESSION. RICHARDSON, NOTING THE EFFORTS OF THE
ACTING PRESIDENT'S GROUP TO REACH A CONSENSUS, SAID HE
SHARED THE REGRET OF MANY DELEGATIONS THAT A CONSENSUS

WAS NOT POSSIBLE BUT STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF MOVING ON TO THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES BEFORE THE CONFERENCE, UNDER AMERASINGHE'S WISE AND CAPABLE GUIDANCE.

3. GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING:

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE MET ON APRIL 7 TO DISCUSS THE PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SEVENTH SESSION. AMERASINGHE REFERRED TO THE DECEMBER 1977 AND FEBRUARY INTERSESSIONALS AND SAID THE CONFERENCE HAD ALMOST REACHED CONSENSUS ON ABOUT 90 OF THE ICNT. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE CONFERENCE PROCEED TO ESTABLISH NEGOTIATING GROUPS, WITH A LIMITED CORE MEMBERSHIP ALTHOUGH OPEN TO OTHERS, TO DEAL WITH THESE OUTSTANDING ISSUES. SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE INFORMAL COMPOSITE NEGOTIATING TEXT (ICNT) PRODUCED BY THE NEGOTIATING GROUPS WOULD THEN HAVE TO BE PASSED TO THE PLENARY UNLESS A "SIZABLE MAJORITY" FINDS SUCH CHANGES ACCEPTABLE. THE LAND LOCKED AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED STATES (LL/GDS) NEGOTIATING GROUP WOULD CONTINUE TO MEET UNDER THE FORMAT ADOPTED AT THE MARCH INTERSESSIONAL.

4. AMERASINGHE IDENTIFIED THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES AS:

- A) THE SYSTEM OF EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF THE DEEP SEABED AND RESOURCE POLICY;
 - B) FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS;
 - C) ORGANIZATION OF THE AUTHORITY - ITS POWER AND FUNCTIONS;
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- D) ACCESS OF THE LL/GDS TO LIVING RESOURCES OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE;
- E) COMPULSORY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT RELATING TO THE RIGHTS OF COASTAL STATES IN THE ECONOMIC ZONE;
- F) DEFINITION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF; AND
- G) DEFINITION OF MARINE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN ADJACENT AND OPPOSITE STATES AND DISPUTE SETTLEMENT OF SUCH QUESTIONS.

5. THE INTERVENTIONS FOLLOWING ILLUSTRATED SEVERAL TRENDS. PERU CALLED FOR THE IMMEDIATE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE THREE MAIN COMMITTEES WITH THESE UNITS, NOT THE PRESIDENT, DESIGNATING SUCH NEGOTIATING GROUPS AS NECESSARY. THE COMMITTEE WOULD THEN REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUPS TO THE PLENARY. PERU ALSO SUGGESTED A FOURTH COMMITTEE ON COMPULSORY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT (CDS HAS BEEN DEALT WITH IN PLENARY SESSION BY AMERASINGHE.) THE LL/GDS ARE NOT HAPPY WITH THE PLANNED RECONSTITUTION OF THE SMALLER NEGOTIATING GROUP TO DISCUSS THEIR ACCESS TO LIVING RESOURCES OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE. POLAND, IRAQ, GDR AND NEPAL ASKED THAT THE LL/GDS NEGOTIATING FORUM (THE NANDAN GROUP) BE ACCORDED AN IDENTICAL "STATUS" TO THAT OF THE

OTHER PROPOSED GROUPS. A NUMBER OF LATINS OPPOSED SUCH A MOVE.

THE G-77 PROPOSAL ON ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE WAS ENTERED INTO THE DEBATE, PARTLY IN RESPONSE TO PERU'S UNILATERAL COMMENTS ON AGAIN SETTING UP COMMITTEES, AND SUGGESTS A FAIRLY BALANCED APPROACH STATING THAT "THE PLENARY SHALL DECIDE ON THE APPROPRIATE MECHANISM FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES."

6. IN RESPONSE TO A SOVIET REQUEST, SECONDED BY OTHERS, TO SEE ALL THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL PROPOSALS IN WRITING, AMERASINGHE AGREED TO HAVE THE SECRETARIAT PREPARE THE DOCUMENTS. THE GENERAL COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON APRIL 10 TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION.
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 05341

COMMENT: THE LATINS ARE REFUSING TO RECOGNIZE THE LEGITIMACY OF THE CHAIR, WITH PERU GOING SO FAR AS TO ADDRESS

ITS COMMENTS SPECIFICALLY TO ONLY THE OTHER DELEGATES.
AGUILAR (VENEZUELA) IS VERY BITTER ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF
THE PRESIDENCY QUESTION AND SUCH ATTITUDES DO NOT AUGUR
WELL FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE. RICHARDSON

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